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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 INT-05 OES-07 EB-07 COME-00
TRSE-00 AID-05 /090 W
----------101047Z 110157 /21
R 100712Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 938
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 5999

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ASEAN, ID, RP
SUBJECT: ROMULO'S VISIT TO JAKARTA

1. SUMMARY: PHILIPPINE FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO MADE A BRIEF STOP IN JAKARTA EN ROUTE TO THE TRIPOLI ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE, TO BRIEF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA (GOI) ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF PHILIPPINE-LIBYAN NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES MOSLEM PROBLEM AND TO ENLIST INDONESIAN CONTINGENCY SUPPORT IN COUNTERING ANY LIBYAN INITIATIVES AT TRIPOLI. END SUMMARY.

2. PHILIPPINE FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO MADE A HASTILY ARRANGED OVERNIGHT STOP IN JAKARTA MAY 8-9, WHILE EN ROUTE TO THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN TRIPOLI. WHILE IN JAKARTA, ROMULO TALKED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK AND HAD A SESSION WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO, DELIVERING A PERSONAL LETTER FROM PRESIDENT MARCOS. ROMULO LAID EQUAL STRESS ON ASEAN ISSUES AND THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINE PROBLEM IN AN CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFICIAL STATEMENT RELEASED AFTER HIS MEETING WITH SUHARTO. FOREIGN DEPARTMENT ASIA-PACIFIC DIRECTOR SUDARSONO TOLD THE DCM, HOWEVER, THAT THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROMULO STOP-OVER WAS TO SEEK INDONESIA'S ADVICE ON DEALING WITH THE MOSLEM PROBLEM IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES AND ITS SUPPORT DURING THE LIKELY DISCUSSION OF THAT PROBLEM IN TRIPOLI.

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3. ROMULO STRONGLY DENIED, IN A BRIEF PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE, THAT HE HAD ASKED FOR DIRECT INDONESIAN OR ASEAN ASSISTANCE IN SETTLING THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES PROBLEM. MALIK, CONFIRMING THAT NO SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN REQUESTED, ADDED THAT "NONE WAS OFFERED, EITHER." (MALIK WAS QUOTED IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE SINGAPORE-STRAIT TIMES LAST WEEK AS SAYING THAT IT WAS "PROBABLY TOO LATE" FOR INDONESIAN OR ASEAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY SINCE "MANILA EARLIER CHOSE LIBYA AS ITS INTERMEDIARY," AND THAT BELATED INDONESIAN INTERVENTION "COULD RAISE DIFFICULTIES IN INDONESIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS.") MALIK DID SAY HE WAS "COMPLETELY SATISFIED" WITH ROMULO'S EXPLANATION OF THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES ISSUE AND CONFIRMED THAT MANILA WAS "KEEN ON GETTING ADVICE ON WHAT STAND THE PHILIPPINES SHOULD TAKE IN TRIPOLI." NEITHER MALIK NOR ROMULO RESPONDED WHEN ASKED BY REPORTERS IF THERE WAS ANY DISCUSSION OF INDONESIA'S SUPPLYING OIL TO THE PHILIPPINES IN THE EVENT OF AN ARAB OIL BOYCOTT.

4. COMMENT. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT INDONESIA, INCREASINGLY FEARFUL OF BEING CAUGHT BETWEEN ITS ARAB FRIENDS AND ITS ASEAN PARTNERS, GAVE ANY SPECIFIC COMMITMENT TO ROMULO.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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